

Approved For Release 2000/05/24 : CIA-RDP

## DODD SEEKS DATA ON NEUTRON BOMB

**Calls On Eisenhower To  
Tell About 'Death Ray'**

Washington, May 12 (AP)—Senator Dodd (D., Conn.) called on President Eisenhower today to tell the American people what he knows about a neutron bomb which Dodd said would emit a kind of death ray.

"I consider all this hush-hush that surrounds the neutron bomb to be a glaring instance of the official abuse of secrecy," Dodd said.

"To keep the facts of life on the nuclear age from the American people is foolish and potentially dangerous."

An Army specialist on nuclear weapons said a neutron bomb is possible in theory. The Atomic Energy Commission declined comment.

### "Burst Of Neutrons"

Dodd raised the question of a neutron bomb in a speech declaring the fate of the free world may hinge on early resumption of nuclear testing by the United States.

He said the Eisenhower-Macmillan statement of March 29 proposing a test ban constituted "the single most catastrophic retreat since the inception of the test ban negotiations" at Geneva.

By implication, Dodd said, the United States-British statement extended the scope of the proposed treaty to cover tests in space.

Then, speaking of weapons of future, he said a neutron bomb can theoretically be produced by combining the energy of an atomic explosion so that, "instead of heat and blast, its primary product is a burst of neutrons."

### "Kind Of Death Ray"

"Such a burst would do negligible physical damage, but it would immediately destroy all life in the target area," Dodd added. "It would, in short, operate as a kind of death-ray."

The Senator said he has heard that, in the light of theoretical knowledge, "the neutron bomb is no more questionable than the hydrogen bomb was six months before it was demonstrated that one could be built."

Dodd said when he sought official information he was told the matter is classified.

He hinted that the Russians may be working on such a bomb. Dodd cited evidence to indicate that the Russians were experimenting with fission-free hydrogen devices as far back as 1952. From this he deduced that "they have for years had some understanding of the possibilities of the neutron bomb."

ILLEGIB